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**Dawn Mission Outreach E-News, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition**

**Spring 2004**  
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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

Welcome to our first Dawn e-Newsletter. Dawn is a NASA Discovery Program mission that will characterize the conditions and processes that existed when the solar system was initially formed, and investigate in detail two of the largest protoplanets remaining intact since their formations. Ceres and Vesta reside, with many other smaller bodies, in the extensive zone between Mars and Jupiter called the asteroid belt. One of the potentials for discovery is at Ceres, which may have an extensive icy crust distinguishing it from the other minor planets that are believed to be rocky and dry. In contrast Vesta appears to have lost its water and is now much like the Earth's moon with ancient lava flows across its surface. The Dawn mission is timely, as it will provide data on the role of size and water in planetary evolution and will form a bridge between the exploration of the rocky inner solar system and the icy outer solar system. Dawn will complete the first order exploration of the inner solar system, addressing NASA's goal of understanding the origin and evolution of the solar system and complements ongoing investigations of Mercury, Earth and Mars.

We are currently preparing for Critical Design Review (CDR) in June. This review is required by NASA and assures that we are ready to build the spacecraft and go forward to launch. Our launch date is scheduled for June 2006 with arrival at Vesta in 2011 and Ceres in 2015. With this e-Newsletter the Dawn mission begins a two-year countdown to launch. The Dawn team is excited about this mission and its possibilities. We invite you to join us in our search for new knowledge by becoming a frequent visitor to the Web site <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/> and joining us when you can at our public events.

Chris Russell  
Dawn Principal Investigator

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### **MESSAGE FROM EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

I also want to welcome you to our e-Newsletter on behalf of the Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. We look forward to helping each of you share in the anticipation and excitement of this mission. Whether you are a teacher, administrator, Girl Scout leader, museum curator, or an interested member of the community, we welcome you to participate in our mission to the origins of our solar system. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, suggestions, and/or comments.

Joe Wise  
Dawn E/PO manager

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### **MEET THE DAWN TEAM**

Dawn is a collaborative partnership made up of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Orbital Sciences Corporation (ORBITAL), German Aerospace Center (DLR), Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy (MPAe), and Italian Space Agency (ASI). The Dawn mission is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and is the tenth chosen for NASA's Discovery Program. Dawn education and public outreach is provided by the University of Maryland, New Roads School, Santa Monica, CA, and Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Aurora, CO.

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/people/index.asp>



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### **DAWN LAUNCHES WEB SITE**

Dawn's journey to the beginning of the solar system launches first on the World Wide Web. You can view the mission timeline, spacecraft, and learn about ion propulsion on the newly delivered Dawn Web site. The Dawn mission team is pleased to offer mission updates, a wealth of mission-related information and science learning activities on the Internet at: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov>

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### **FIND A METEORITE WEB ACTIVITY**

How do scientists identify meteorites? What is the asteroid belt really like and where do meteorites come from? Visitors to the Dawn Web site can visit the "Find a Meteorite" section to explore asteroids and meteorites, while they learn the characteristics of common meteorites at: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/Meteorite/index.asp>

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### **TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CALIBRATED PEER REVIEW™**

Teachers, here's an opportunity for professional development on a timely topic—integrating writing in content areas. Calibrated Peer Review™ (CPR), a suite of integrated, Internet-based tools that enable students to learn by writing and receive peer feedback. **Mark your calendars for July 12-14, 2004.** Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), in Aurora, Colorado, is hosting a three-day session facilitated by Arlene Russell (UCLA) and Joe Wise (New Roads School). At the workshop, each participant will experience a CPR assignment in the role of a student while learning how to implement the program in their class. The group will review the rich set of assessment information that the CPR program can acquire on student performance and learn how to customize the information to specific needs. Participants will then work on the creation and development of new assignments for use in their own classes. Learn how to become proficient in developing new and creative CPR. Participants can earn continuing education credit from the Colorado School of Mines. For more details and to sign up visit: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/index.asp>

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### **ATTENTION: CURRICULUM COORDINATORS AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS**

Are you interested in being considered a Dawn field test site? Dawn Education and Public Outreach is conducting an evaluation study with 8th-grade teachers in an estimated four to eight middle schools during the Fall of 2004. Participating eighth-grade science teachers within a school will be randomly selected to field-test the first Dawn content module History and Science of Dawn. For more details and to sign up visit: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/index.asp>

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### **SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

The Dawn mission e-newsletter will be delivered on a quarterly basis. As we approach our one-year countdown to launch, you will receive monthly mission updates via e-news. Please forward this e-mail to share with others interested in NASA missions. New subscribers may join the Dawn mission e-news mailing list on our Web site at: [http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnMedia/e\\_news.asp](http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnMedia/e_news.asp)

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Dawn Mission Outreach E-News features information about the mission, its outreach Web site, and products, services, and materials available from the Dawn Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. Dawn is managed for NASA's Office of Space Science by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).